

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 12 as follows in re-written "clean" format:

Sub 12
12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
soldering a second solderable cap of said interconnection to said first contact pad
of said first component, said second solderable cap disposed in contact with said conductive
polymer opposite said first solderable cap.

Election of Species:

Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Species I, as shown in Figure 7. Species I, as defined by the Examiner, includes originally submitted claims 1-11.

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement is submitted in response to the restriction requirement mailed on January 17, 2002. In the present amendment, independent claim 12 has been amended to now depend from claim 1.

Upon consideration of the reasons given by the Examiner for this restriction requirement, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's statement in paragraph 1 of the Detailed Action that there are currently no generic claims. Although claim 1 is specifically directed toward the embodiment depicted in Figure 7 (i.e., the "one cap" embodiment), it also reads on the embodiment of Figures 5a-5c (i.e., the "two cap" embodiment). More particularly, claim 1 provides:

1. A method of forming an electrical connection between two devices, comprising:
bonding an interconnection on a first contact pad of a first component, wherein said interconnection comprises
a conductive polymer comprising a polymer component and a conductive

component; and,

a first solderable cap disposed in contact with said conductive polymer; and,
soldering said first solderable cap to a second contact pad of a second component.

With regard to Figures 5a-5c, the recited element “bonding an interconnection on a first contact pad of a first component” may be read on Figure 5b as the interconnection 30 bonded to first contact pad 64. The claim further recites that the interconnection comprises a conductive polymer 32 (comprising a polymer component and a conductive component) and a first solderable cap 36 disposed in contact with said conductive polymer 32. This also reads on Figures 5a-5c. Lastly, claim 1 recites soldering said first solderable cap 36 to a second contact pad 70 of a second component 72. Again, these claimed elements may each be read upon the second cap embodiment of Figures 5a-5c.

Because there is nothing in claim 1 that specifically recites the direct bonding of the conductive polymer 32 to the first contact pad 64, it cannot be stated that claim 1 could not contemplate a second solderable cap on the other end of the conductive polymer. As such, claim 1 should be considered generic to both embodiments.

Even if no claim could be considered generic to both embodiments, the examination of each of the presently pending claims would not result in an undue hardship upon the Examiner, since the difference therebetween is only an additional solderable cap. MPEP section 803 provides that “[i]f the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” The Applicants submit that this is the case in the instant application, as is evidenced by the amendment to claim 12.


Notwithstanding any of the above statements, the Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to any non-elected subject matter in the present application. If the Examiner has any queries regarding the instantly submitted preliminary amendment and response, the Applicants’ attorney respectfully requests the courtesy of a telephone conference to discuss the

same.

No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Preliminary Amendment and Response, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0458 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
CHARLES H. PERRY, ET AL.

CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicants' Attorneys

By 
Sean F. Sullivan
Registration No. 38,328
Customer No. 29371

Date: January 29, 2003
Address 55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone: (860) 286-2929



Version of Marked Up Changes Made

A “marked up” version of Claim 12 follows:

“12. (Amended/Marked up) [A] The method of [forming an electrical connection between two devices] claim 1, further comprising:

soldering a second solderable cap of [an] said interconnection to [a] said first contact pad of [a] said first component, [wherein said interconnection comprises:

a conductive polymer comprising a polymer component and a conductive component;

a first solderable cap disposed in contact with said conductive polymer; and,]

said second solderable cap disposed in contact with said conductive polymer opposite said first solderable cap[; and,

soldering said first solderable cap to a second contact pad of a second component].”